United Nations A/HRC/RES/27/2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 October 2014

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Twenty-seventh session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council

27/2
The right to development

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling the Charter of the United Nations and the core human rights instruments,

Reaffirming the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986,

Reaffirming also Human Rights Council resolutions 4/4 of 30 March 2007 and 9/3 of 17 September 2008, and recalling all Commission on Human Rights, Council and General Assembly resolutions on the right to development, the most recent being Council resolution 24/4 of 26 September 2013,

Recognizing the renewed commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by their target date of 2015, as set out in the outcome document adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[1]

Emphasizing the urgent need to make the right to development a reality for everyone,

Emphasizing also that all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, can only be enjoyed in an inclusive and collaborative framework, at the international, regional and national levels, and in this regard underlining the importance of engaging the United Nations system, including United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, within their respective mandates, relevant international organizations, including financial and trade organizations, and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, development practitioners, human rights experts and the public at all levels, in discussions on the right to development,

[1] General Assembly resolution 65/1.

Recognizing that achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, requires effective policy coherence and coordination,

Recognizing also that extreme poverty and hunger are one of the greatest global threats and require the collective commitment of the international community for its eradication, pursuant to Millennium Development Goal 1, and therefore calling upon the international community to contribute towards achieving that goal,

Underlining the imperative need for raising awareness of the progress made, still existing difficulties and accelerating action towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing that all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, independent and interrelated,

Underlining that the post-2015 development agenda will need to aim at strengthening a new, more equitable and sustainable national and international order, as well as the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Emphasizing that the right to development should be central to the post-2015 development agenda,

Taking note of the commitment declared by a number of United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes and other international organizations to make the right to development a reality for all, and in this regard encouraging all relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other international organizations to mainstream the right to development into their objectives, policies, programmes and operational activities, as well as into development and development-related processes, including the follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Stressing the primary responsibility of States for the creation of national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development,

Recognizing that Member States should cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development, that the international community should promote effective international cooperation, in particular global partnership for development, for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development, and that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level,

Recalling that 2011 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Stressing that, in General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, the Assembly decided that the responsibility of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights shall be, among others, to promote and protect the realization of the right to development and to enhance support from relevant bodies of the United Nations system for that purpose,

1. *Takes note* of the consolidated report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to development,[2] which provided information on the activities undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner

[2] A/HRC/27/27.

relating to the promotion and realization of the right to development in the period from May 2013 to April 2014;

2. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to submit to the Human Rights Council an annual report on its activities, including on inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system with regard to the promotion and realization of the right to development;

3. *Takes note* of the efforts under way in the framework of the Working Group on the Right to Development with a view to completing the tasks entrusted to it by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 4/4, in fulfilment of the mandate of the Working Group as established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1998/72 of 22 April 1998;

4. *Acknowledges* the need to strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development at the international level, while urging all States to undertake at the national level the necessary policy formulation and to institute the measures required for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

5. *Welcomes* the launching in the Working Group of the process of considering, revising and refining the draft right to development criteria and corresponding operational sub-criteria, with the first reading of the draft criteria and operational sub-criteria;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Working Group on its fifteenth session;[3]

7. *Recalls* that the Working Group, at its fifteenth session, had before it four documents containing detailed views and comments on the draft criteria and operational sub-criteria submitted by Governments, groups of Governments, regional groups and other relevant stakeholders, including United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and institutions, as well as other relevant multilateral institutions and forums, in fulfilment of the conclusions and recommendations agreed at its fourteenth session;

8. *Takes note with appreciation* of the continuation of the process of considering, revising and refining the draft criteria and the corresponding operational sub-criteria, and welcomes the completion of the first reading of the draft criteria and operational sub-criteria;

9. *Acknowledges* the need to have the contributions of experts, regrets the low attendance of invited experts from international organizations at the fifteenth session of the Working Group, and in this context urges their broader engagement and re-emphasizes the importance of engaging further and inviting to the sixteenth session of the Working Group experts from relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and institutions, as well as other multilateral institutions and forums, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders;

10. *Also acknowledges* the need to further consider, revise and refine the draft criteria and corresponding operational sub-criteria mentioned in paragraphs 5 and 8 above, as mandated by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 21/32;

11. *Decides*:

(*a*) To continue to act to ensure that its agenda promotes and advances sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and

[3] A/HRC/27/45.

in this regard lead to raising the right to development, as set out in paragraphs 5 and 10 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, to the same level and on a par with all other human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(*b*) That the criteria and corresponding operational sub-criteria mentioned in paragraph 5 above, once considered, revised and endorsed by the Working Group, should be used, as appropriate, in the elaboration of a comprehensive and coherent set of standards for the implementation of the right to development;

(*c*) That the Working Group shall take appropriate steps to ensure respect for and practical application of the above-mentioned standards, which could take various forms, including guidelines on the implementation of the right to development, and evolve into a basis for consideration of an international legal standard of a binding nature through a collaborative process of engagement;

(*d*) To endorse the recommendations of the Working Group as reflected in its report on its fifteenth session;

(*e*) That the Working Group will continue, at its sixteenth session, to accomplish its mandate including, in particular, to consider, revise and refine the draft right to development criteria and corresponding operational sub-criteria;

(*f*) To convene a two-day informal intersessional intergovernmental meeting of the Working Group with the participation of States, groups of States and relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and institutions, as well as other multilateral institutions and forums, and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, with a view to improve the effectiveness of the Working Group at its sixteenth session;

(*g*) That the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group will further her efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Working Group with a view to accomplishing its mandate, including through drafting a framework for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Working Group, in consultation with regional and political groups;

(*h*) To consider the extension of the meeting time of the Working Group, as appropriate;

12. *Encourages* Member States to pay particular consideration to the right to development in the context of the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

13. *Urges* the High Commissioner to pursue his efforts, in fulfilment of his mandated responsibility, to enhance support for the promotion and protection of the realization of the right to development, taking as reference the Declaration on the Right to Development, all resolutions of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the right to development, and agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group;

14. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner, in the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, to take sufficient measures to ensure balanced and visible allocation of resources and due attention to ensure visibility of the right to development through identifying and implementing tangible projects dedicated to the right to development, and to provide continuous updating to the Human Rights Council in this regard;

15. *Encourages* relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, including United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, relevant international organizations, including the World Trade Organization and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to contribute further to the work of the Working Group and to cooperate with the High Commissioner in the fulfilment of his mandate with regard to the implementation of the right to development;

16. *Decides* to review the progress of the implementation of the present resolution, as a matter of priority, at its future sessions.

39th meeting
25 September 2014

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 42 to 1, with 4 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

Japan, Republic of Korea, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland]